



May 7, 2020

Mr. Peter Alviti  
Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation  
2 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: RIDOT's FY2020 INFRA Grant Application – Opening the Cranston Canyon**

Dear Director Alviti,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), I write to offer my full support for RIDOT's FY2020 BUILD Capital Grant Application to advance the "Opening of the Cranston Canyon" project to improve safety and relieve congestion on the I-295/Route 37 corridor in Cranston, RI.

A properly functioning highway network is necessary for the economic vitality and future of the entire area. This \$25 million grant would accelerate an \$85 million effort to repair five structurally deficient bridges, make safety improvements, and help mitigate congestion along the combined corridor.

Through a range of planning exercises, RIPTA has identified the I-295/Route 37 corridor as an area that shows tremendous opportunity for potential transit service in the future. We commend RIDOT for undertaking this effort to improve movement for all. The BUILD funding that is being requested would help create new economic activity by making movement more efficient through the corridor, both now and moving forward.

It has been a challenge in the past to fix crumbling bridges and relieve congestion in this heavily commercial corridor due to the lack of proper infrastructure funding.

Due to the importance of this corridor, this project is an opportunity to rebuild critical infrastructure for all modes of transportation and set up Rhode Island's transportation system for long-term success.

RIPTA supports RIDOT's BUILD Grant Application and looks forward to working with the Department of Transportation to advance the reconstruction of this vital link in our overall network. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Avedisian", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Scott Avedisian  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority